

EDGECOMBE COUNTY, N.C.

LAND USE AND POTENTIAL STUDY



ABSTRACT

TITLE: Land Use and Potential Study, Edgecombe County,
North Carolina

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and Development, Division of Community Planning,
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DATE: March, 1969

SUBJECT: Historical Background
Regional Location
Natural Features
Existing Land Use
Analysis of Land Category Relationships
Potential for Development

LOCAL PLAN-
NING AGENCY: Edgecombe County Planning Commission

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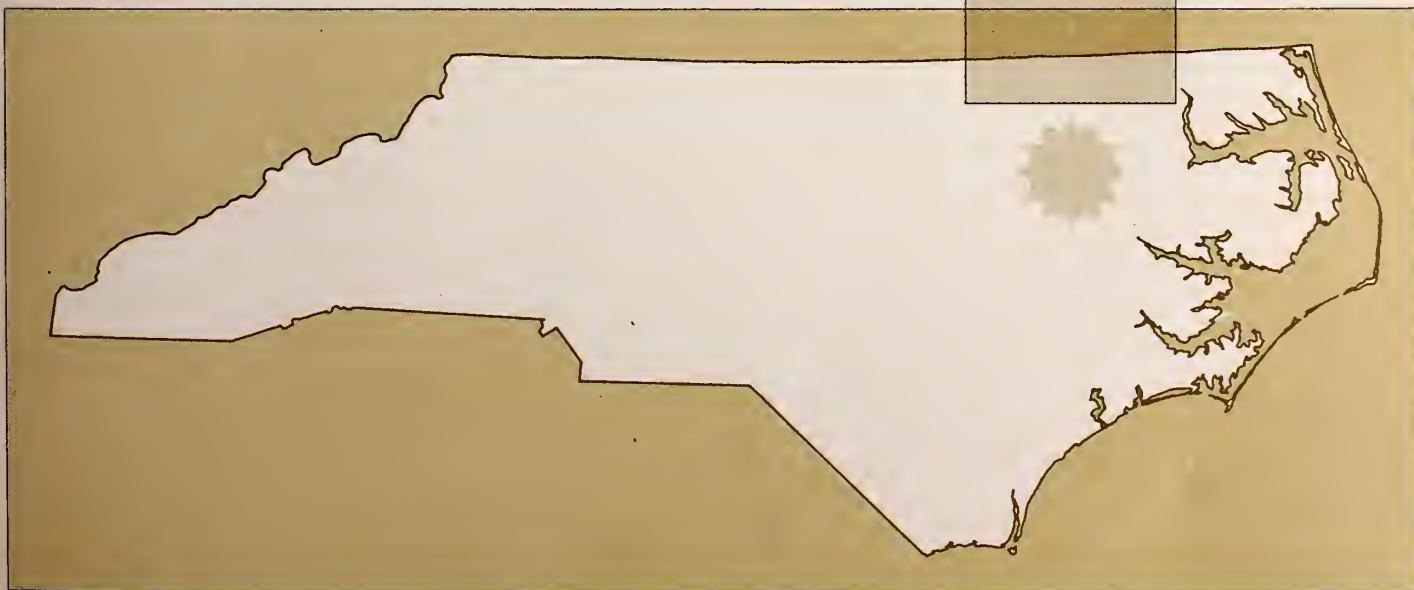
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This study is the first of four published planning reports which will be prepared for Edgecombe County. All four of the planning reports will be interrelated and will be used as base data for the county's continuing planning program.

The Land Use and Potential Study provides information about the different land use categories in the county and their physical and economic relationships to one another. Basic data on such diverse areas as historical background, soil types, forestry, erosion, etc. are contained herein. The report also contains in-depth information on housing conditions within respective townships in the county.

EDGECOMBE COUNTY, N.C.

LAND USE AND POTENTIAL STUDY



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PREPARED FOR
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INTRODUCTION





INTRODUCTION

In February, 1966, the Edgecombe County Board of Commissioners contracted with the Division of Community Planning, North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development. The primary purpose of this contract is to develop a planning program which will outline policy goals and objectives for the Edgecombe community. The Commissioners realized that firm planning guidelines were needed in Edgecombe County to prevent poor land development and to encourage the social and physical growth. They established the Edgecombe County Planning Board. This lay body is composed of five citizens from the county. They are charged with formulating recommendations on planning matters for the county Commissioners. The scope of the Planning Board's interest is far reaching and they may make recommendations on all matters which pertain to the physical development of Edgecombe County. It is not the intent of the planning program to inhibit growth within the area but it is the hope of the Commissioners that the program will encourage orderly and creative development in terms of population, economy, industrial and agricultural potential.

The Division of Community Planning will provide technical assistance to the Edgecombe County Board of Commissioners in the preparation of a planning study series which will form the basis for the policy decision making process. This study series will include the following elements:

- Land Use and Potential Study
- Economic Potential Study
- Land Development Plan
- Subdivision Regulations
- Continuing Planning Service

The Land Use and Potential Study is the first planning study of the programmed series. The purpose of this first study is to critically analyze those physical features, both natural and man-made which have determined land development in the past and which will influence the patterns of growth in Edgecombe County in the future. The Land Use and Potential Study will illustrate these

various uses of land in terms of relevant planning units. The planning units considered include: residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, and recreational areas. The study will attempt to outline the growth potential and possibilities of each land use category while also considering their various limitations.

The Land Use and Potential Study in conjunction with the forthcoming Economic Potential Study will form the basis for the Edgecombe County Land Development Plan. The Land Development Plan will be used as a general guideline for policy decision making by the county governing officials, municipal authorities, and various respective civic organizations. The Land Development Plan may be simply defined as a general guide for the physical growth of the county. It deals with such basic items as highway planning, school site selection, industrial site location, etc.

The remaining elements of the planning program include the Subdivision Regulations and the Continuing Planning Service. These two elements comprise the working tools to implement the Land Development Plan.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND





HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Edgecombe County has one of the most colorful historical backgrounds of any county in the State of North Carolina. The county was formed by a legislative act in 1741 and was named after Baron Richard Edgecombe who became Lord of the British Treasury. The City of Enfield was the first county seat. Shortly thereafter Halifax assumed the county's legislative and judicial duties. However, by 1764 the City of Tarboro had become established as the permanent county seat. The total land area in Edgecombe is only a small portion of what at one time composed the county. Prior to 1741, Edgecombe County consisted of what today respectively composes seventeen different counties. In 1883 part of Edgecombe was annexed to Wilson County and with this legislative act Edgecombe assumed its current land area of 511 square miles.



Source: A New Geography of North Carolina, Volume II, Bill Sharp, Sharp Publishing Company, Raleigh, N. C., 1961, pp. 1303-1322.

Many people believe that the State nickname "Tarheels" originated in Edgecombe County. It is said that when Lord Cornwallis and the British Army marched through North Carolina in 1781 that they crossed the Tar River in Edgecombe County. After fording the river the soldiers found their feet covered with sticky tar. The nickname "Tarheels" is said to have been derived from the fact that they believed all North Carolina streams to be covered with the substance.

The early pioneers of Edgecombe County were active during the Revolutionary War. Volunteers joined the Continental Army and fought at Wilmington, Moores Creek, Norfolk, Brandywine, and Guilford. After the Revolutionary War the people living in Edgecombe County began to develop a broad farming base. English settlers came to the county, migrating from Virginia. The family of Jeremiah Battle was one of the first to settle in Edgecombe. There was little friction between the Indians and white settlers, for only a handful of Tuscaroras lived in the area.

Farming became the primary means of survival after the Revolutionary War. Such crops as corn, peas, wheat, oats, rye, sweet potatoes, cotton, and flax were all grown. Tobacco did not become a main agricultural crop until later. Many of the farms in Edgecombe County became known through the South for their high yields. In 1850 the Panola Plantation of John S. Dancy and Robert Norfleet was considered by many to be the best managed cotton plantation in the South. Prior to the Civil War thousands of Negroes were brought to Edgecombe County to be used as slaves on the large plantations.

When the Civil War began Edgecombe County supported the Confederacy and sent fourteen thousand volunteers to fight. Noted Confederate soldiers who came from Edgecombe County include William D. Pender and Henry L. Wyatt. Pender was the youngest general in the Civil War, and he was killed at Gettysburg. Henry Wyatt died in the battle of Bethel and was the first Confederate soldier killed. Sherman's troops marched through Edgecombe County on their way to Atlanta. The only conflict to actually occur in the county was on July 14, 1863 at Daniels School House. It was a small skirmish and no one was killed.

Emancipation and the union victory created havoc for the social balance of Edgecombe County. Carpetbaggers, exploiters and other unscrupulous individuals began to illegally take possession of the land which had at one time belonged to the wealthy planters. By 1873 large numbers of people were beginning to move from the county and valuable land was being sold at one dollar and fifty cents per acre.

By 1874 tobacco had become the most profitable crop surpassing cotton and other agricultural produce. Tenant farmers began to move back into the county as the tobacco industry flourished. This tradition of tobacco growing has continued to develop and today it is big business in Edgecombe County. In 1962 there were 3,275 farms raising tobacco, peanuts, and cotton. There has been a trend in recent years to raise more livestock. Smaller farms are beginning to phase-out in Edgecombe County. Most of the farmers in this area find that only large tracts of land will produce crops efficiently.

Industry has continued to grow in Edgecombe County from its early historical beginnings. The need for new industry in the county was first recognized by the Town of Tarboro, which in 1870 established the "Progressive Association". This organization worked towards industrial development. The city and county were rewarded in 1881 with the establishment of the Tarboro Cotton Mill, which now belongs to Burlington Industries. By 1891 Edgecombe had four railways and three steamship lines located within the county. These transportation outlets helped to develop Edgecombes' industrial base, and to found such new towns as Pinetops and Macclesfield.

Tarboro has continued to be the primary industrial center for the county. In 1958 the city established an industrial development commission and employed a full-time industrial engineer to promote the establishment of new plants within the area. The Tarboro region has many industries including Burlington Industries, Long Manufacutring, Carolina Enterprises, Inc., Glenoit Mills, Phoenix Trimming Company, Anaconda Wire and Cable Company, two hosiery mills, a plywood plant, and a concrete factory. The industrial recruiting program has been directly responsible for many of the new plants located in this area. The City of Rocky Mount lies

partially within the county and has played a significant role in its development. Rocky Mount has historically been a major industrial center of Northeastern North Carolina. One of the earliest cotton mills in the state was established within the city in 1818. Rocky Mount continues to be an important center of trade and industry for both Nash and Edgecombe Counties.

Communication has played a major role in the development of Edgecombe County. The "Southerner" Newspaper was established in 1824 and is the second oldest newspaper in North Carolina. The county is served by a locally owned telephone and telegraph system. The home office of Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company is located in Tarboro and the company has over 337,000 telephones in service.

REGIONAL SETTING



REGIONAL SETTING

Edgecombe County is located in the Northeast section of North Carolina. Edgecombe is typical of the flat topography associated with the Coastal Plains area. To the West, Edgecombe is separated from the Piedmont Crescent and rolling hills by Nash County which forms part of the "Fall line".

Edgecombe County is located approximately thirty-five miles from the State of Virginia and approximately one hundred and sixty miles from the South Carolina border. The county is situated thirty-two miles from Washington, North Carolina, and the Pamlico River, and sixty-five miles from Edenton, and Albemarle Sound. Thus, Edgecombe County enjoys a regional position which is within easy reach of two states and the Atlantic Coast.

Edgecombe is bordered by six counties. These are Green County, Halifax County, Martin County, Nash County, Pitt County, and Wilson County. Using the City of Tarboro as a reference point there are fifteen North Carolina Counties located within a fifty mile radius of the city. The following is a list of these respective counties, including their 1960 populations and projected populations for the year 1980.

County	1960 ^A	1980 ^B
Beaufort	36,014	45,000
Bertie	24,350	23,000
Franklin	28,755	25,000
Halifax	58,956	68,000
Hertford	22,718	29,000
Johnston	65,936	67,000
Lenoir	55,276	65,500
Martin	27,139	30,000
Nash	61,002	75,000
Northampton	26,811	25,000
Pitt	69,942	82,000
Wake	169,082	270,000
Warren	19,652	22,000
Wayne	82,059	123,000
Wilson	57,716	66,000

Source: A. 1960 U.S. Census of Population, N.C., Number of Inhabitants, Table 7, pp. 35-14. C.V. Lyle, Economist, County Population Projections.
B. North Carolina Population Projections Developed by the North Carolina Social Sciences Foundation, C.V. Lyle, Economist, July 23, 1968.

In 1960 the population for Edgecombe County and the respective counties within a fifty mile radius of Tarboro was 856,634 persons. By 1980 this figure will have jumped to 1,070,920 giving the regional area a twenty-one percent increase. Obviously, this increase in population will bring new prosperity to Edgecombe County. However, it will also mean a more intensive demand for jobs and specialized services within the urbanized areas.

Tarboro is the geographical center of the county and is the seat of governmental activity. Rocky Mount is Edgecombe's major city and leads all others in terms of trade activity and population growth. Many major North Carolina cities are located within short distance of Rocky Mount and Tarboro. Greenville, Washington, and Wilson are all within a fifty mile radius of Tarboro. Other cities within a hundred mile radius include Durham, Elizabeth City, Kinston, New Bern, Raleigh, and Roanoke Rapids. Good communication and transportation links between these perspective cities and Edgecombe County insure a bright future for the inter-county market potential.

MAP I

REGIONAL SETTING



NATURAL FEATURES



NATURAL FEATURES

Climate

Average Temperature (F)*

Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
	39.8	47.6	49.7	60.1	68.4	76.9	78.9	77.4	71.2
Month	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.						
	63.7	51.4	51.4						

Annual Average Temperature: 61.4

*Recorded at Tarboro Station, 1956

Total Precipitation (inches)*

Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
Inches	2.13	5.34	4.10	4.47	2.79	4.73	7.59	6.17	8.81
Month	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.						
Inches	4.41	1.41	2.23						
Annual Precipitation: 54.18									

Edgecombe County is situated between the Appalachian Mountains on the northwest and the Atlantic Coast on the east and south. The mountain range protects the county from cold winter winds blowing from the northwest. Thus, in the winter any cold winds which prevail come from the north-northeast; however, these winds are calmed as they pass over the Atlantic Ocean. The winter months are relatively mild in Edgecombe County and the coldest recorded winter temperature has never gone below 5° above zero. With 216 days of freeze-free growing the county is particularly well suited for agriculture. March 30 is the last occurrence of 32° temperature lows in the spring. November 1 is the average date of the first occurrence in autumn of temperatures below 32 degrees.

The summer months in Edgecombe County are moderate with some hot weather. July is the warmest month with June and August following closely. The summer is of course the sunniest season with

the sun shining approximately two-thirds of the time between sunrise and sunset. Rainfall during the late summer and early fall months is often increased by the passing of a tropical storm along the Atlantic Coastline; however, damaging winds which usually accompany such storms are rare in Edgecombe County.

The winds in the county usually prevail from the south in the spring and summer, and from the north in the winter. The wind has an average surface speed of eight miles per hour in the county. Precipitation is ample in the area with heaviest amounts recorded during the summer growing season of June, July and August.

Source: Climatography of the United States, Number 20-31,
United States Department of Commerce, Weather Bureau,
Climatological Summary, Tarboro Station.

CHART 1

TEMPERATURE DATA

EDGEcombe COUNTY AREA

(TARBORO STATION)

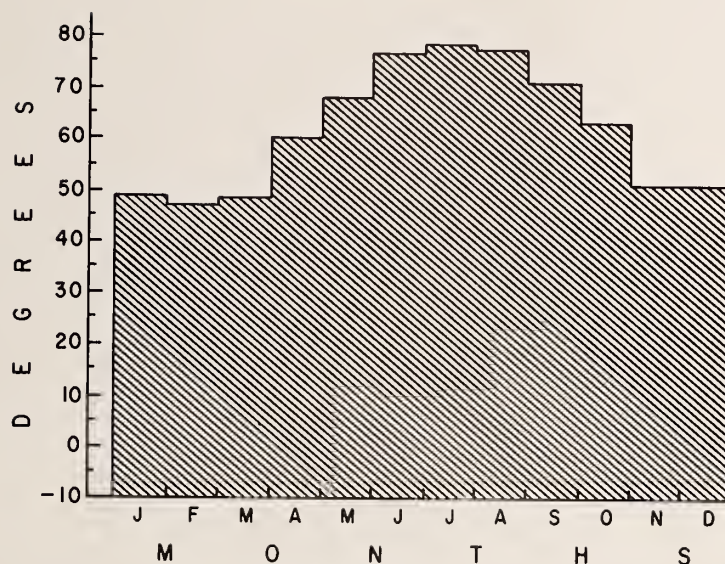
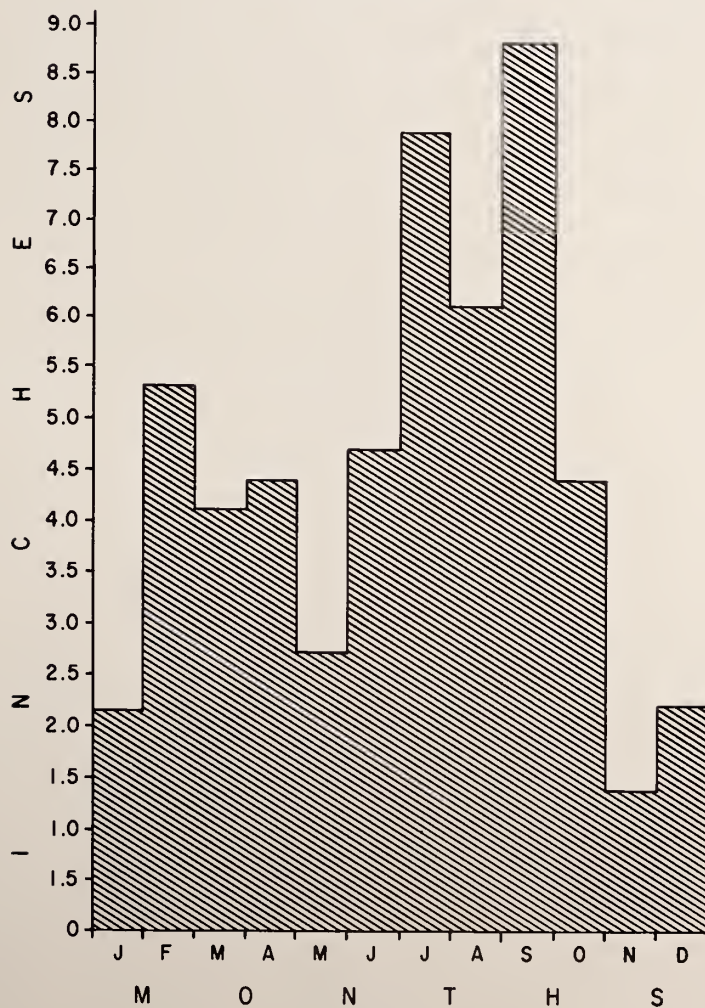


CHART 2

AVERAGE

PRECIPITATION



Topography and Physiography

The surface of Edgecombe County is formed by terraces of the Penholoway, Wicomico and Sunderland formations of Pleistocene age. The county lies wholly within the physiographic province of the Coastal Plains area.

The Penholoway terrace is a very flat, poorly drained, belt which extends up the Tar River spreading several miles wide on the north and east side. The Wicomico terrace is a narrow band located on the south and west of the Tar River and its tributaries. It is also located over a large, flat portion of the northern and eastern sections of the county.

A large portion of the county is occupied by the Sunderland terrace which is located south and west of the Tar River, and along the western edge of the county. The lowest point in the county is located on the Tar River as it leaves Edgecombe County and is 10 feet above sea level. The highest point lies along the western edge of the county where it is 140 feet above sea level.¹

The topography and physiography of Edgecombe County are important because they indicate that there are some areas within the county which may cause problems to builders. Areas unsuited for structures, such as sections of the Penholoway terrace, are usually poorly drained. Edgecombe County is fortunate to have such a vast area of level topography. Topography such as this can usually be utilized much easier than areas which are predominantly hilly or mountainous.

¹Source: Ground Water in the Halifax Area, North Carolina,
by M. J. Mundorf, Bulletin No. 51, N.C. Department
of Conservation and Development, 1946.

Soils

According to the United States Soil Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture, "Soils that occur together in a characteristic and repeating pattern make up a general soil area or soil association. An association consists of one or more major soils and at least one minor soil."¹ There are eight soil associations which are found in Edgecombe County. The Soil Conservation Service has broken these soil associations into nine soil suitability classifications ranging from septic tank filter field suitability to the general productive quality of the land for agriculture purposes.

Soil types play an important role in the planning process because they outline the best general uses for different land areas. Property owners living within Edgecombe County may find their land values destroyed when land is improperly managed. Failure to coordinate land use with soil suitability can have disastrous consequences. When land used for septic tank fields is not suited to such a use the results may be sewage back-up, and pollution of drinking water. Land may become flooded when home builders fail to consider site slope and general drainage patterns. Low crop yields result when land unsuited for agricultural purposes is farmed. Thus, it can be seen that consideration of soil types is extremely important in planning for the future of any area.

Plate No. 7 shows the type of soils within Edgecombe County. The eight soil types are outlined as they were interpreted by the Soil Conservation Service. The map is intended to show the laymen the different types of soil and their respective suitability for different land uses. It is not the intent of the report to have this map used for the planning of small tracts of land as it is not designed for this purpose. Individuals interested in specific sites should contact their local soil conservationist.

¹ Unpublished Report, United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Charles Hunt, North Carolina Director, 1968.



EDGECOMBE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA



MAP 2

SOILS MAP

- WICKHAM - LEAF - BUNCOMBE
- NORFOLK - GOLDSBORO - AYCOCK
- NORFOLK - GOLDSBORO - WAGRAM
- BUNCOMBE - GRINDLE
- BIBB - WEHADKEE
- CONGAREE - WEHADKEE - CHEWACLA
- GOLDSBORO - RAINS
- KENANSVILLE - GRINDLE - OKENEE

SOIL INTERPRETATIONS

SOIL ASSOCIATIONS		% IN ASSOC.	LIMITATIONS FOR						
			DWELLINGS WITH		RECREATION		LIGHT INDUSTRIES (FOOTINGS IN SUBSOIL)	ROADS AND STREETS (SUBSOIL FOR BASE)	GENERAL AGRICULTURE
			SEWERAGE SYSTEMS	SEPTIC TANK FILLER FIELDS	CAMP SITES	PICNIC AREAS			
WICKHAM-LEAF-BUNCOMBE (14% OF COUNTY) WELL TO POORLY DRAINED SOILS ON NEARLY LEVEL TO GENTLY SLOPING RELEIF, LOAMY SAND TO SILT LOAM SURFACES, VERY FRIABLE SANDY TO VERY FIRM CLAYEY SUBSOILS.	WICKHAM	25	4	4	4	4	4	4	
	LEAF	20	WT, FL	WT, FL PERC.	WT, TRAF.	WT, TRAF.	WT, FL	WT, FL TSC.	
	BUNCOMBE	15	4	3, 4	4, TRAF.	4, TRAF.	4	4	
NORFOLK-GOLDSBORO-AYCOCK (28% OF COUNTY) WELL TO MODERATELY WELL-DRAINED SOILS ON NEARLY LEVEL TO SLOPING RELEIF, LOAMY SAND TO VERY FINE SANDY LOAM SURFACES, FRIABLE SANDY CLAY LOAM TO FIRM CLAY LOAM SUBSOILS.	NORFOLK	30							
	GOLDSBORO	20		WT, PERC.			COR.		
	AYCOCK	15							
NORFOLK-GOLDSBORO-WAGRAM (30% OF COUNTY) WELL TO MODERATELY WELL DRAINED SOILS ON NEARLY LEVEL TO STRONGLY SLOPING RELEIF, THIN TO THICK SANDY SURFACES, FRIABLE SANDY CLAY LOAM SURFACES.	NORFOLK	30							
	GOLDSBORO	20		WT, PERC.			COR.		
	WAGRAM	15							
BUNCOMBE - GRINDLE (6% OF COUNTY) WELL TO POORLY DRAINED SOILS ON NEARLY LEVEL TO GENTLY SLOPING RELEIF, LOAMY SAND TO FINE SANDY LOAM SURFACES, VERY FRIABLE SANDY TO VERY FIRM CLAYEY SUBSOILS.	BUNCOMBE	20	4	3, 4	4, TRAF.	4, TRAF.	4	4	
	GRINDLE	20	WT, FL	WT, FL PERC.	WT, TRAF.	WT, TRAF.	WT, FL	WT, FL TSC	
BIBB - WEHADKEE (4% OF COUNTY) POORLY DRAINED SOILS ON NEARLY LEVEL FIRST BOTTOMS WITH SURFACE TEXTURES RANGING FROM SAND TO SILT LOAM AND SUBSURFACE LAYERS RANGING FROM SAND TO CLAY.	BIBB	60	WT, FL	WT, FL	WT, FL TRAF.	WT, FL TRAF.	WT, FL	WT, FL	
	WEHADKEE	20	WT, FL	WT, FL	WT, FL TRAF.	WT, FL TRAF.	WT, FL	WT, FL	
CONGAREE - WEHADKEE - CHEWACLA (5% OF COUNTY) WELL TO POORLY DRAINED SOILS ON NEARLY LEVEL FIRST BOTTOMS WITH SILT LOAM SURFACES, FRIABLE SILT LOAM TO SILTY CLAY LOAM SUBSOILS.	CONGAREE	35	FL	FL	FL	FL	FL	FL	
	WEHADKEE	30	WT, FL	WT, FL	WT, FL TRAF.	WT, FL TRAF.	WT, FL	WT, FL	
	CHEWACLA	25	WT, FL	WT, FL	WT, FL TRAF.	WT, FL TRAF.	WT, FL	WT, FL	
GOLDSBORO - RAINS (4% OF COUNTY) MODERATELY WELL TO POORLY DRAINED SOILS ON NEARLY LEVEL TO GENTLY SLOPING RELEIF, SANDY SURFACES AND FRIABLE SANDY CLAY LOAM SUBSOILS.	GOLDSBORO	30		WT, PERC.			COR.		
	RAINS	30	WT	WT	WT, TRAF.	WT, TRAF.	WT	WT	
KENANSVILLE - GRINDLE - OKENEE (9% OF COUNTY) WELL TO POORLY DRAINED SOILS ON NEARLY LEVEL TO GENTLY SLOPING RELEIF, LOAMY SAND TO FINE LOAM SURFACES, FRIABLE SANDY LOAM TO VERY FIRM CLAY SUBSOILS.	KENANSVILLE	20							
	GRINDLE	20	WT, FL	WT, FL PERC	WT, TRAF.	WT, TRAF.	WT, FL	WT, FL TSC	
	OKENEE	15	WT, FL	WT, FL	FL, TRAF.	TRAF.	WT, FL COR.	WT, FL TSC.	

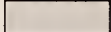

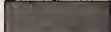
LIMITING FACTORS

WT WATER TABLE
 FL FLOOD HAZARD
 TRAF TRAFFICABILITY
 PERC PERCOLATION
 COR CORROSION POTENTIAL
 TSC TRAFFIC SUPPORTING CAPACITY
 AWC AVAILABLE WATER CAPACITY

3 LOW FILTERING ACTION; NEARBY WATER SUPPLY MAY BE CONTAMINATED.

4 SOME AREAS OF THESE SOILS NEAR LARGE STREAMS MAY OCCASIONALLY FLOOD & WOULD BE RATED AS HAVING SEVERE LIMITATIONS FOR NON-FARM USES.

DEGREES OF LIMITATIONS

 SLIGHT
 MODERATE
 SEVERE

Wickham-Leaf-Buncombe Association

Wickham soils are located along the major streams and nearly level to gently sloping areas. Leaf soils are found in the nearly level areas apart from the streams. These soils are poorly drained and permeability is slow. They have loam surfaces over light grey clayey subsoils. Buncombe soils are found along the ridges within the association. They are very well drained loamy sands with high permeability. Kalmia-like, Altavista, Craven, Lenoir, Wehadkee, Congaree, Chewacla, and Lumbee soils make up the rest of this association.

Large areas of level to gently sloping soils on high flood plains are indicative of this association.

About 60 percent of the association is used for farming, while the rest is in wooded areas. Wickham soils are the only category in this association which respond well to agricultural uses. Wickham and Buncombe soils have slight limitations for urban use due to occasional flooding. Due to severe flooding patterns, the Leaf soils are completely unusable for urban area activities.

Norfolk-Goldsboro-Aycock Association

Coastal Plain upland soils comprise this association which consists of broad areas of nearly level surface. This association is located around Battleboro, MacClesfield and Pinetops, and along Highway 44 from Leggett to Whitakers. It is also found along Highway 64 from Heartsease to Rocky Mount.

Norfolk soils include grayish loamy sand to sandy loam surfaces. Permeability is only moderate. Goldsboro soils have grayish loamy sand to sandy loam surfaces. They are moderately well drained with moderate permeability. Aycock soils are well drained with moderate permeability. These soils have grayish fine sandy loam surfaces and yellowish-brown friable loam. The association's remaining percentage is made up of Rains, Exum, Lynchburg, Ruston, Nahunta, Grantham, Wagram, Craven, and Coxville soils.

About 70 percent of the association is used for agricultural purposes with the remainder in wooded areas. These soils are well suited to farming uses; however, land erosion does cause minor problems on sloping sections. Urban uses are adaptable to the Norfolk and Aycock soils which have only slight limitations.

Norfolk-Goldsboro-Wagram Association

This association is located along U.S. Highway 258, south from Tarboro to the Pitt County line, and around Lawrence and Speed. Broad areas of nearly level to strongly sloping upland Coastal Plain soils make up the association.

The Norfolk soils found in this association are well drained with moderate permeability. They consist of grayish loamy sand to sandy loam surfaces. Goldsboro soils have grayish loamy sand to sand loam surfaces. They are well drained with moderate permeability. Fifteen percent of the county consists of Wagram soils. These soils are well drained with moderately rapid permeability. Their surfaces are composed of thick grayish loamy sand to sand. Other soils found in the association include Rains, Lynchburg, Aycock, Exum, Craven, and Coxville series.

Cultivated land and pasture constitute about 65 percent of the association with the remainder being wooded areas. This association is suited for both agricultural and urban uses with only slight problems found in each category.

Buncombe-Grindle Association

This association is found along the Tar River and Fishing Creek south from Lawrence. Moderately broad areas of nearly level to gently sloping soils characterize the association. Buncombe soils are thick loamy sands which are excessively well drained. They occur along the ridges and have a rapid permeability. Grindle soils are poorly drained with slow permeability. They consist of sandy loam surfaces with clay subsoils. They are found along depressed drainage areas. The remainder of the association is made up of Kalmia-like, Johns, Okenee, Kenansville and Lumbee soils.

Pasture and cultivated acreages constitute 65 percent of this association. Wooded areas constitute the remaining sections. Both the Buncombe and Grindle soils are unsuited for agricultural purposes. Grindle soils are completely unsuited for urban use as severe flood problems and slow permeability prohibit development in these areas.

Bibb-Wehadkee Association

This association is found along major drainage patterns, specifically, Town Creek, Swift Creek, Deep Creek, and Cokey Swamp. It consists of long, narrow, nearly level first bottoms. The Bibb soils are poorly drained and their surfaces are composed of dark gray sand to silt loam over clay subsurfaces. Their permeability is moderately rapid to slow. Wehadkee soils are poorly drained with moderate permeability. Their surfaces are composed of dark gray silt loam with clay subsurfaces. Johnston and Lumbee soils constitute the remaining sections of the association.

Wooded areas constitute 95 percent of this association. Pasture land makes up the remaining area. Pasture land and corn are the only agricultural uses to which this association should be used. Bibb and Wehadkee soils are unfit for urban development as they flood frequently for long periods.

Congaree-Wehadkee-Chewacla Association

They are found along the Tar River and Fishing Creek. The association consists of nearly level first bottoms. Congaree soils are well drained with moderate permeability. They consist of brown silt loam to loam surfaces with silt loam to clay subsoils. Wehadkee soils consist of silt surfaces over gray friable silt loam to clay subsoils. These soils are poorly drained with moderate permeability. Chewacla consist of silt loam surfaces with silt loam to clay subsoils. They are poorly drained with moderate permeability. Buncombe and Leaf soils compose the remainder of the association.

Wooded areas cover 95 percent of these soils with the remaining 5 percent in pasture. Congaree soils, when cultivated are well suited to agricultural purposes, but flooding is a problem with all three of the soil types. None of these are suited to urban uses due to their hazardous flooding patterns.

Goldsboro-Rains Association

This association is characterized by areas of nearly level to gently sloping relief. It is found around Whitakers, Battleboro, and Macclesfield, and along the Edgecombe County and Martin County line from Speed south to State Highway 11.

Goldsboro soils have loamy sand to sandy loam surfaces over yellowish-brown sandy clay loam subsoils. They are moderately well drained with moderate permeability. Rains soils have fine sandy loam surfaces and sandy clay loam subsoils. They are poorly drained with moderate permeability. Norfolk, Lynchburg, Coxville, Duplin, Grantham, Dunbar, and Bibb soils compose the remaining sections of the association.

This association is evenly divided between pasture land and wooded areas. Both Goldsboro and Rains soils are well suited to agricultural purposes; however, erosion due to wet slopes does cause some problem. Goldsboro soils have only slight limitations for urban activities; however, Rains soils are not suited for urban uses due to their high water table and ponding hazards.

Kenansville-Grindle-Okene Association

This association is located in a line from Lawrence south to Conetoe. It is composed of broad areas of nearly level to gently sloping soils on high floodplains. Kenansville soils are well drained with moderately rapid permeability. They have loamy sand to sandy surfaces with yellowish-brown sandy loam subsoils. They are usually found along the ridges within the association.

Grindle soils have sandy loam surfaces over gray clayey subsoils. They are poorly drained with slow to very slow permeability. These soils are found near level areas away from streams and along depressed minor drainage areas. Okene soils have gray to black fine sandy loam surfaces over gray sandy clay loam subsoils. They are poorly drained with moderate permeability. They occur in broad level areas away from streams. The remaining sections of the association are made up of Kalmia-like, Johns, Lenoir, Craven and Lumbee soils.

About 65 percent of the association is in wooded areas with 35 percent in pastureland. Kenansville soils are well suited to agriculture but Grindle and Okenee soils are too wet for such purposes. Kenansville soils have only slight limitations for urban functions but Grindle and Okenee soils are unsuited due to their high water tables. An analysis of the soils material indicates that individuals wishing to build structures within the county will encounter certain difficulties in almost every section. The Norfolk-Goldsboro-Aycock, and the Norfolk-Goldsboro-Wagram associations, have the smallest number of limiting factors of all of the associations found in Edgecombe. The county is fortunate in that these two associations comprise 58 percent of the county's land area. Thus, it appears that there is still a large area of buildable land which could be utilized.

Geology

The subsurface of Edgecombe County is composed of crystalline "basement" rocks. This crystalline formation dips eastward beyond the western boundary of the county. The formation is exposed slightly at the western edge of the county along the Tar River. The crystalline subsurface rocks are overlain by a Cretaceous strata. This strata becomes thicker as it approaches the western boundary of the county. The Yorktown formation is only 30 to 60 feet in thickness but overlays virtually all of the older formations within the county. The Yorktown is exposed in many places along the Tar River. The surface formations are between 20 and 30 feet thick and are formed by the Penholoway, Wicomico, and the Sunderland group of the Pleistocene age.

Geological information is important to have because it indicates the structural stability of the land. Obviously, land which is susceptible to sliding and shearing cannot be used for homes, businesses, or industry. Fortunately, Edgecombe County has no such problems.

Source: Ground Water in the Halifax Area, North Carolina, Bulletin No. 51, by M.J. Mundorf, Department of Conservation and Development, 1946.

Minerals

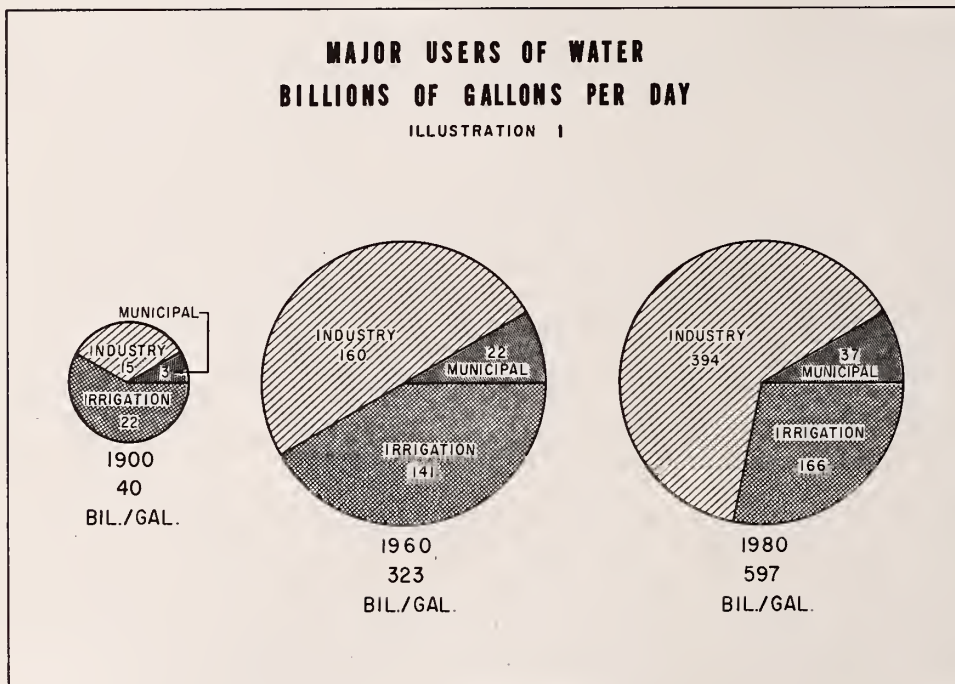
There are only two known mineral resources located within Edgecombe County. These are sand and gravel. In 1965, a total of \$109,000.00 worth of sand and gravel products were mined in the county.

Quality Sand and Gravel Company, located in Rocky Mount, and Tar River Sand and Gravel Company at the Whitehurst Mine, are the only active commercial mining companies located in Edgecombe. The North Carolina State Highway Department also uses sand and gravel from Edgecombe for paving and fill dirt purposes. While Edgecombe County may be lacking in terms of total mineral deposits, it is not low in value of minerals sold. In 1965, Edgecombe was ranked 8th in the state in value of total mineral production.

Source: The Mineral Industry of North Carolina, by John W. Sweeney and Stephen G. Conrad, U. S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Mines.

WATER

Water availability is one of the most important single factors in determining the possibility for expansion of growth and activity within a given area. A good water source is something which industry, farmers, businessmen, and homemakers cannot do without. The rapid expansion of industries, the increasingly high irrigation demands of farmers, and a general trend towards increased leisure time and outdoor recreational activities, have put a tremendous value upon a constant water supply.



Water consumption can be placed in three general categories. The three great users of water are agriculture, industry and municipal corporations. Cities are having to supply more and more water each year. The vast growth of modern industries, a large number of homes with multiple bathrooms, a greater interest in home lawn care as a hobby, and the general extension of water and sewer lines demanded by urban growth, have all combined to make an adequate water supply the number one priority service provided by most cities. Illustration 2 shows the increasing demands for water in the United States.

Ground Water

Few springs are used in Edgecombe County and most of the water comes from wells. There are very few dug wells. Most of them are drilled or bored and they are shallow, obtaining their water from Pleistocene formations. Bored wells are common in the areas surrounding Pinetops, Macclesfield, and Sharpsburg, and they are also found east of Battleboro and Whitakers. Driven wells are more common in the eastern part of the county.

Wells which are shallow and which have been drilled into the Yorktown formation have given only limited amounts of water. Usually, the water supplied from these wells is hard, with an unpleasant taste and odor. A large part of the wells located in the Yorktown formation are found in the western part of the county.

A majority of the wells located in the Cretaceous strata have given good supplies of water. A good ground water supply is easier to find in the eastern section. The permeable sand stratum of the Cretaceous formation is generally thicker in the eastern part of Edgecombe and the odds are in favor of finding a good aquifer in this section.

Surface Water

Edgecombe County is drained by the Tar River and its tributaries. The principal tributaries include Fishing Creek, Swift Creek, Deep Creek, Conetoe Creek, Cokey Swamp, and Town Creek. There are no lakes of substantial size located within the county.

All of the towns and cities in Edgecombe County draw their water supplies from the Tar River or its associated tributaries. This water source was at one time plentiful enough to serve the county but in recent years the demand has become so great as to make the water resources a critical area.

Source: Ground Water in the Halifax Area, North Carolina,
Bulletin No. 51, by M.J. Mundorf, Department of
Conservation and Development, 1946.

Rocky Mount recently completed plans for building a dam along the Tar River and every effort should be made to see that this plan is implemented. The North Carolina Water Resources Commission is working with the U. S. Corps of Army Engineers in the planning of possible dams and reservoirs along the Tar River. These programs could have a significant effect upon the county's economic growth because water is a primary resource which every county must have if it expects to grow and prosper.

Watershed Projects

By the end of 1966, there had been three watershed projects completed in Edgecombe County. Ninety-five miles of channel improvements were made along Conetoe Creek in 1966. A 207 mile wetland areas project was completed along Little Contentnea Creek for the protection of fish and wildlife, and a soil and water conservation project was completed for South Deep Creek in that same year.

Water Pollution

In recent years the problem of river and stream pollution has caused increasing alarm among public health officials. The Tar River and its tributaries are extremely important to the well-being of the citizens of Edgecombe County. They furnish water for the home, the farm, and industry. A good, clean water source cannot be valued too highly.

In 1961, the North Carolina Department of Water and Air Resources published a report which sighted several factors which were contributing to the pollution of stream water in Edgecombe County. This report gave the Tar River an "A-II" rating. This rating indicated that the Tar was slightly polluted. Since that time efforts have been made to purify the water within the county and at the present time there are very few points of pollution along the river.

Source: Status of P.L. 566 Watershed Projects in North Carolina,
United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation
Service, J. P. Kuykendall, State Conservationist, July, 1967.

Public sewage waste discharged into rivers and streams has always been a major factor in pollution detection and control. Edgecombe County is fortunate in that most of its cities contribute only a small amount of pollutable matter to the Tar. The towns of Pinetops, Tarboro, the City of Rocky Mount, and the town of Whitakers have secondary type waste disposal systems which contribute less than five percent of polluted matter to the Tar River and its streams. The towns of Battleboro and Macclesfield have primary type waste disposal systems which contribute significantly to the polluted waters. The towns of Legget and Princeville have no waste disposal system of any type. This is a particularly disturbing fact because the waste from septic tanks and outdoor privies has been known to poison individual drinking wells especially in areas of high density. Efforts should be made to see that all of the cities in Edgecombe County have adequate waste disposal systems.

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is big business in Edgecombe County and accounts for twenty-six percent of all persons employed within the area.

In 1965 agriculture accounted for 110,493 acres of land in Edgecombe County. Field crops constitute 54,140 acres while 56,353 acres are used for livestock, poultry, grains and feeds. Both of these figures are expected to increase by 1970. Modern mechanization has been responsible for increasingly efficient agricultural methods. The total number of individual farms will continue to decrease as some farmers purchase lands from their fellow farmers and as sharecroppers leave farming in search of other forms of employment.

Much of the agricultural land located within Edgecombe County has not been used to its fullest extent. "Edgecombe families have unlimited possibilities in agriculture and will reach their objectives of an anticipated annual gross income of about 31½ million dollars by 1971."¹ Indeed, if the efficiency in

¹Target 2, Agricultural Extension Service, NCSU, Extension's Long-Range Plan for Progress, Edgecombe County.

Source: Ibid.

farming methods continues its current trend it is expected that increases in farm income will occur in all crop areas with the exception of cotton. The North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service estimates that tobacco income could be increased by \$600,000 per year, peanut income by \$234,000 per year, and soybean income by \$100,000 per year if more efficient farming methods are used. These income estimates are important in terms of total land use because they indicate that income could be increased without any new clearing and cultivation of existing forested areas and pasture land.

Grazing and pasture lands will become important in the future as Edgecombe County's poultry and livestock trade grows. The opportunities for using additional lands for raising cattle, chickens, and feeds will become increasingly important to Edgecombe's agricultural economy. At the present time there are 12,000 acres of land in improved pasture with another 6,000 acres available for seeding. The growing opportunity for this land category is reflected in the \$3,680,750 of recorded income which came from the sale of livestock, poultry, and feed in 1965.



TABLE 1

1966 PRODUCTION OF FIELD GROWN CROPS, LIVESTOCK, AND POULTRY

Item	Farms ^a Producing	Total Acres	Total Production		Total Gross Sales
			Amount	Unit of Measure	
Cotton	2,172	13,996	4,198,800	Lbs.	1,259,640
Cotton Seed	2,172	13,996	8,397,600	Lbs.	167,960
Peanuts	2,104	16,102	32,204,000	Lbs.	3,864,480
Soy Beans	1,200	14,000	378,000	Bu.	1,001,700
Tobacco	2,656	9,117	17,787,267	Lbs.	10,850,233
Cucumbers	125	600	1,800	Tons	120,000
Sweet Potatoes	45	325	40,625	Bu.	75,157
Forest (Pulpwood)	3,000	155,000	14,000	Cord	84,000
Forest (Lumber)	3,000	155,000	25,000	1,000 Bd. Ft.	750,000
Corn	4,118	39,353	2,750,000	Bu.	1,800,000
Oats	135	1,000	70,000	Bu.	26,250
Sorghum	50	750	16,500	EWT	33,000
Wheat	350	2,000	60,000	Bu.	99,000
Permanent Pasture	200	12,000	--	--	--
Temporary Pasture	50	1,000	--	--	--
Silage	50	250	3,000	Ton	Feed
Beef Cattle	175	--	5,000	Head	683,000
Milk	14	--	100,000	EWT	450,000
Sheep	8	--	200	Head	3,000
Swine	250	--	65,000	Head	2,280,000
Turkey	1	--	1,200	Bird	5,280
Hatching Eggs	2	--	2,400	Bird	18,480
Table Eggs	11	--	34,200	Bird	208,315

^aThe number of separate producing units including each share cropper as a separate unit.

Source: Agricultural Extension Service, NCSU, Target 2, Long Range Plan for Progress, Edgecombe County, 1966

FORESTRY

Commercial forests comprise the largest single land use category within Edgecombe County. The County has a total of 327,000 acres of land with 160,500 acres of commercially forested land. Forty-seven percent of all land in Edgecombe is commercial forest. There are no national forests located in the county but state and locally owned areas account for 800 acres.

Edgecombe has a plentiful supply of commercially valuable trees with an estimated 880.1 million board feet of sawtimber and 3,308 thousand cords of growing stock. There are approximately twenty-three different types of commercially valuable trees in the county. Included in this list are: Longleaf pine, short leaf pine, loblolly and Virginia pine, cypress, black gum, tupelo gum, sweet gum and yellow poplar, cottonwood, elm, soft maple and sycamore, northern red oak, red oak and low grade red oak, bottomland oak, scrub oak and white oak, ash, beech, birch, black walnut, hickory, and persimmon.

Edgecombe County has many lumber and lumber related industries. Rocky Mount has two furniture manufacturing firms and a paper board mill. Tarboro has a logging company and a wood products manufacturer. A sawmill is located at Battleboro and the Town of Whitakers has a hardwood flooring mill. With its vast reservoir of wooded areas the county needs more lumber industries. Edgecombe is fortunate in that it is surrounded by counties which have many wood plants and mills. Nash County, to the west of Edgecombe, has a veneer plant, a cooperage plant, and seven saw mills, while Halifax County, located to the north, has a veneer plant, a pulp mill, and seven saw mills. The only lumber buyer in Edgecombe County is the Stimson Lumber Company located in Battleboro. This company has a stationary mill and produces between four and ten million board feet of hardwood lumber per year. The company has two debarkers and chippers, and stumpage is bought in the immediate vicinity of the plant.

The presence of woodlands in Edgecombe County is important

to the citizens for several reasons other than economic potential. Wooded areas reduce flood hazards and prevent soil erosion. Tall trees growing in thickly concentrated patterns act as wind breaks thus reducing strong winds and creating a better atmosphere for agriculture. Wooded areas provide natural beauty and create a natural environ for wildlife.

The forests located within Edgecombe County deserve a concerted preservation and development effort. Their value, in terms of economics, aesthetics, and natural conservation will be of benefit to the future development of Edgecombe County.

Source: North Carolina's Timber, Herbert A. Knight and Joe P. McCure, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Southeastern Forest Experiment Station, Asheville, North Carolina.

Buyers of Forest Products in North Carolina, North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development, Dan E. Stewart, Director, F. H. Claridge, State Forrester, Revised January 1966.

WILDLIFE

Edgecombe County is fortunate in that it has such a wide variety of wild birds and sport game. With forty-nine percent of the land area in naturally wooded areas it is easy to understand why wild birds and animals have remained in the county. Due to clean farming methods adopted by many people in Edgecombe, the county's game supply has decreased slightly. However, it appears that these seasonal fluctuations in the county's game supply are now remaining fairly constant.

There are three native sport birds found in Edgecombe County. These are the Bobwhite Quail, the Mourning Dove, and the Wild Turkey. Bobwhite Quail has decreased in recent years but a plentiful supply is still available for hunters. Wild Turkeys are still found in the county, primarily within the Fishing Creek, and Swift Creek areas. The Mourning Dove is the most plentiful game bird in Edgecombe County. These birds feed on the large peanut crop of the county and there has been an increase in their numbers.

White-tailed Deer are found in the rough, inaccessible areas of the Fishing Creek and Swift Creek. Raccoon, Opossum, Mink, Muskrat, and Otter live in these same swampy areas. All of their numbers appear to be on the increase. Gray Squirrel and Gray Fox numbers are increasing in Edgecombe County. The Cottontail Rabbit population is declining. Many people believe that this has been due to the increase in Fox. However, Fox hunting has strongly over-shadowed Rabbit hunting and the increase in Fox numbers appears to be permanent.

Sport birds and game are a wonderful natural asset to Edgecombe County. Due to the small number of streams, ponds, and rivers in the county, the fishing opportunities are not very good. Perch, Bream and striped Bass are found here but fishing along the rivers and streams has dropped off strongly in recent years. Wild bird and game protection should be promoted in the county to insure their preservation for future generations. Farmers could help by setting aside swamp areas as refuges and by

growing grain crops for the animals. Stray dogs and cats should be caught so as not to allow their disruption of the natural breeding habits of the birds and game.

Source: Survey Information, Edgecombe County Wildlife, 1949, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Charles Woodhauser.

EXISTING LAND USE



INTRODUCTION

This section of the study will analyze specific categories of land use activity within the county. The categories discussed include residential development, commercial development, industrial development, public and quasi-public areas, highways and transportation, and an examination of the potential for each of these land use categories.

Table 2 and Map Number 3 on page 40 illustrate the land use composition of Edgecombe. In Table 2, the land categories are divided into rural and urban classifications. From the breakdown of acreages and percentages it becomes evident that forests and cropland form the largest segment of the county. In terms of land availability, Edgecombe County is ripe for growth and development. Map Number 3 is a generalized land use map of the county. It illustrates the various locations of general land use classifications.

EXISTING LAND USE

General Urban Areas

There are ten incorporated towns and cities located within the confines of Edgecombe County. Included in this list are the towns of Battleboro, Conetoe, Macclesfield, Pinetops, Princeville, Rocky Mount, Sharpsburg, Speed, Tarboro and Whitakers. The combined population of these cities accounts for almost fifty percent of the county's population, even though their combined acreages form only two percent of the five hundred and eleven mile total land area.

Rocky Mount and Tarboro are the centers of commercial and industrial activity. Their combined populations account for eighty-six percent of all persons living in urban areas. Some of the smaller towns such as Conetoe and Princeville, showed population declines from 1950 to 1960, but increases in natural population growth are expected to come in all of the other towns and cities within the county. Edgecombe County's 1960 population figure of 54,228 is expected to increase in the coming years. Tarboro's 1960 population of 8,411 will increase even though many of the Negroes living there are leaving the city. The expansion of new industries in Tarboro has given life blood to what was once a diminishing citizenry. These two urban areas within the county will receive a slight influx of residents from the rural farming areas.

General Rural Areas

Like most of the counties within the coastal plain, Edgecombe is predominantly rural with a diverse farming economy. Of the five hundred and eleven square miles of land in the county, two percent of all land area is devoted to towns and cities, forty-seven percent is devoted to areas of commercial timber and private forest, and forty-seven percent of the total area is used for active farming and pasture land.

Edgecombe County's farming base is expected to grow within

the next few years, and the average farm size is expected to get larger. Sharecropping will decrease as more Negro families move to the larger urban areas. Sophisticated farming technology and more efficient tools and machines will also reduce the need for farm labor.

TABLE 2
EDGECOMBE COUNTY LAND USE

	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Source</u>
<u>Rural</u>			
Forest	55,000	47.4	A
Cropland	110,000	33.7	A
Pasture	20,000	6.1	A
Other Farm Uses	25,000	7.6	A
Transportation	5,000	1.5	B
Other Development	4,430	1.4	B
Total Rural	319,930	97.8	-
<u>Urban Areas</u>			
Rocky Mount	2,528	.7	B
Tarboro	2,316	.7	B
Other Towns	2,266	.6	B
County Total	327,040	100%	

Sources: A. United States Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Tarboro, 1968, John Baily, Agent.
B. DCP estimate

EDGECOMBE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA








1 0 1 2 3 4
SCALE IN MILES



MAP 3

GENERALIZED LAND USE

- | | |
|---|---|
|  RESIDENTIAL |  INDUSTRIAL |
|  COMMERCIAL |  RECREATIONAL
(MEETING HALLS, CLUBS,
ETC.) |
|  PUBLIC & QUASI-PUBLIC | |

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

The predominant areas of residential development in Edgecombe County occur in the western half. The heaviest densities in this area occur from Tarboro to the southwest quadrant. Tarboro Township, Lower Conetoe Township, and Rocky Mount Township have the highest residential densities, while Upper Conetoe, Deep Creek, Lower Fishing Creek, and Walnut Creek Townships are the most sparsely populated.

Residential building patterns have occurred along paved secondary roads in most cases. There are only a few standard subdivision developments outside of Rocky Mount and Tarboro Townships. Most of the homes are individually isolated on large sections of land. The single heaviest area of residences is found in Rocky Mount Township. Here, the rural atmosphere is unseen and standard lot development prevails.



Housing Conditions

The housing conditions within any given area will usually give a picture of the living standard of that region. Housing, within itself, is an important subject because every family deserves a decent, safe, and sound home. The advent of urban renewal efforts and Federal housing programs on a large scale, have brought the poor housing problem into the forefront of America's domestic issues. Never before in the history of the United States has so much effort been put into providing a decent home for every person.

In September 1968, the Division of Community Planning completed a survey of housing in Edgecombe County. While the 1960 Census of Housing gave data for the County relative to deteriorating and substandard conditions, it was felt that a new survey was needed, due to the eight year construction period which had elapsed. A windshield survey was made to discover the degree of substandard housing within the County.

The survey was based entirely on the external appearance of the structure. The structures were analyzed and divided into three general categories.

STANDARD----- Housing which is in sound condition with no visible defects in construction, and which requires only minimal maintenance.

DETERIORATING- The broadest classification used in the survey, covering everything from peeling paint to missing roof shingles. However, this type of housing does not have major defects in basic construction.

DILAPIDATED--- Housing which is substandard and which has major construction problems such as cracked exterior walls, crumbling foundations, etc. This type of housing is beyond economical repair and is usually undesirable for human habitation.

The following is a brief discussion of housing, by township, with reference to certain blighted areas within each respective area. For county report purpose, the structures which are located in the respective incorporated cities within Edgecombe County are not discussed and have not been listed with the housing totals.

1. Tarboro Township

Tarboro Township is located in the center of the County and includes the Town of Tarboro. A total of 653 housing units were recorded for the township. Forty-four percent or 288 homes were classified as standard. This figure represents the second highest standard housing count within the county. Two hundred and fifty-two

homes or 38 percent of the housing analyzed fell into the deteriorating bracket, while 17 percent or 113 units were classified as dilapidated. Eight dilapidated homes were found vacant. Tarboro Township had the second best housing of any township located in Edgecombe County. Only two small areas of blight were found. These were located in the central, western, and southwestern sections of the township.

2. Lower Conetoe Township

Lower Conetoe Township is located in the southeast corner of the County. Conetoe is the only town found within its boundaries. Twenty-nine percent or 92 homes were considered standard. This is a low percentage of the 321 home total. Ninety-seven homes or 30 percent of the total were considered deteriorating and 132 units or 41 percent of the total were considered dilapidated. Twenty-eight vacant dilapidated units were found. Two pockets of blight were located. One of the blighted areas is located on the eastern border of the township, and the other substandard area forms a linear pattern along the southern boundary line. There are relatively few blighted homes in the immediate area surrounding the Town of Conetoe.

3. Upper Conetoe Township

This township forms the central eastern border of the County. Upper Conetoe Township had a high degree of dilapidated structures. One hundred and twenty-seven homes or 46 percent of the total units were considered uninhabitable. Forty-eight dilapidated units were found vacant. Only 43 homes were listed in the standard classification out of a total of 272. Thirty-seven percent of the homes fell into the deteriorating bracket. Five areas of blighted homes were found. They were fragmented throughout the township with no specific pattern. Only the central western area in the vicinity of Tarboro was relatively free from blight.

4. Deep Creek Township

This township is located in the north central section of the county. Deep Creek had a slightly better housing inventory than did Upper Conetoe Township. Twenty-four percent of the homes were considered standard while 36 percent were considered deteriorating. Eighty-five of the total 213 homes were rated as substandard. This represents a high dilapidation record of 40 percent. Thirty-three vacant dilapidated units were found. A crescent shaped pattern of blight was found in the north central section of the township.

5. Lower Fishing Creek Township

Located in the north central section of the county, Lower Fishing Creek Township is one of the most blighted of all townships within Edgecombe County. Only 18 percent of the homes were rated as standard, while 36 percent were considered to be deteriorating. One hundred and twenty-three, or 46 percent of a total 268 homes were dilapidated. Eighteen vacant dilapidated units were found. Blight patterns were interspersed freely throughout the entire township.

6. Upper Fishing Creek Township

This township had the highest rate of dilapidation in the county. Two hundred and eighteen of a total 347 units were either deteriorating or dilapidated. Only 29 homes were considered in standard condition. Twenty-nine dilapidated vacant structures were found, and as in the Lower Fishing Creek area, blighted patterns were scattered throughout the township.

7. Swift Creek Township

Twenty-five percent of the homes located in Swift Creek Township were standard while 32 percent were deteriorating. However, 143, or 43 percent of the total 333 homes were considered dilapidated. Fourteen vacant unsound units were located and the majority of dilapidated structures were found in the general vicinity of Battleboro.

8. Sparta Township

Sparta Township is located directly south of Tarboro and is in generally the same structural condition as Swift Creek. Sixty-two units were standard with 115, or 38 percent being deteriorated. Forty-one percent of the units were dilapidated. Twenty-seven vacant dilapidated units were found. Most of the blighted areas were located in the northeast or southwest sections.

9. Otter Creek Township

Otter Creek has a proportionally low figure for dilapidated units when compared to the other townships. Twenty-five percent of the structures were dilapidated while 153 or 44 percent of the homes were deteriorating. One hundred and four of the total 345 units were considered standard. There were 24 vacated dilapidated units. Patterns of blight were scattered throughout.

10. Lower Town Creek Township

This township is located in the southwest corner of the county and had a comparatively good cross section of housing types. Sixty-four of the 264 housing units were rated as standard. One hundred and thirteen units were found to be deteriorating, while 87 homes, or 33 percent of all units were considered dilapidated. There were only 11 vacant dilapidated homes. Most of the dilapidated structures were located in the central section of the township.

11. Walnut Creek Township

Walnut Creek is an unusual township for the survey, because of its high number of homes in the deteriorating category. Fifty percent of the total 236 structures were in this category. Forty-five of the 236 total structures were listed in the standard bracket, while 71 homes or 30 percent within the inventory were dilapidated. Sixteen vacant dilapidated units were sighted. The pockets of blight were located in the central and southwestern sections of the townships.

12. Rocky Mount Township

The Rocky Mount area had the best housing of any township. Fifty-three percent of the 774 unit total were rated as standard. Two hundred and forty-four units were deteriorating, and 16 percent of the homes were dilapidated. Fifteen vacant houses were found, and all of them were dilapidated. The southwestern corner of Rocky Mount Township represents the only noticeable congregated pattern of blight.

13. Cokey Township

Cokey Township had a high number of vacated unsound homes, with 32 being reported. Total dilapidation, however, was not relatively excessive with 105 of the total 279 units rated in this category. Seventeen percent of the structures were in standard condition with another 127 homes in the deteriorated group. Dilapidated homes formed no groupings, but were scattered throughout the township.

14. Upper Town Creek Township

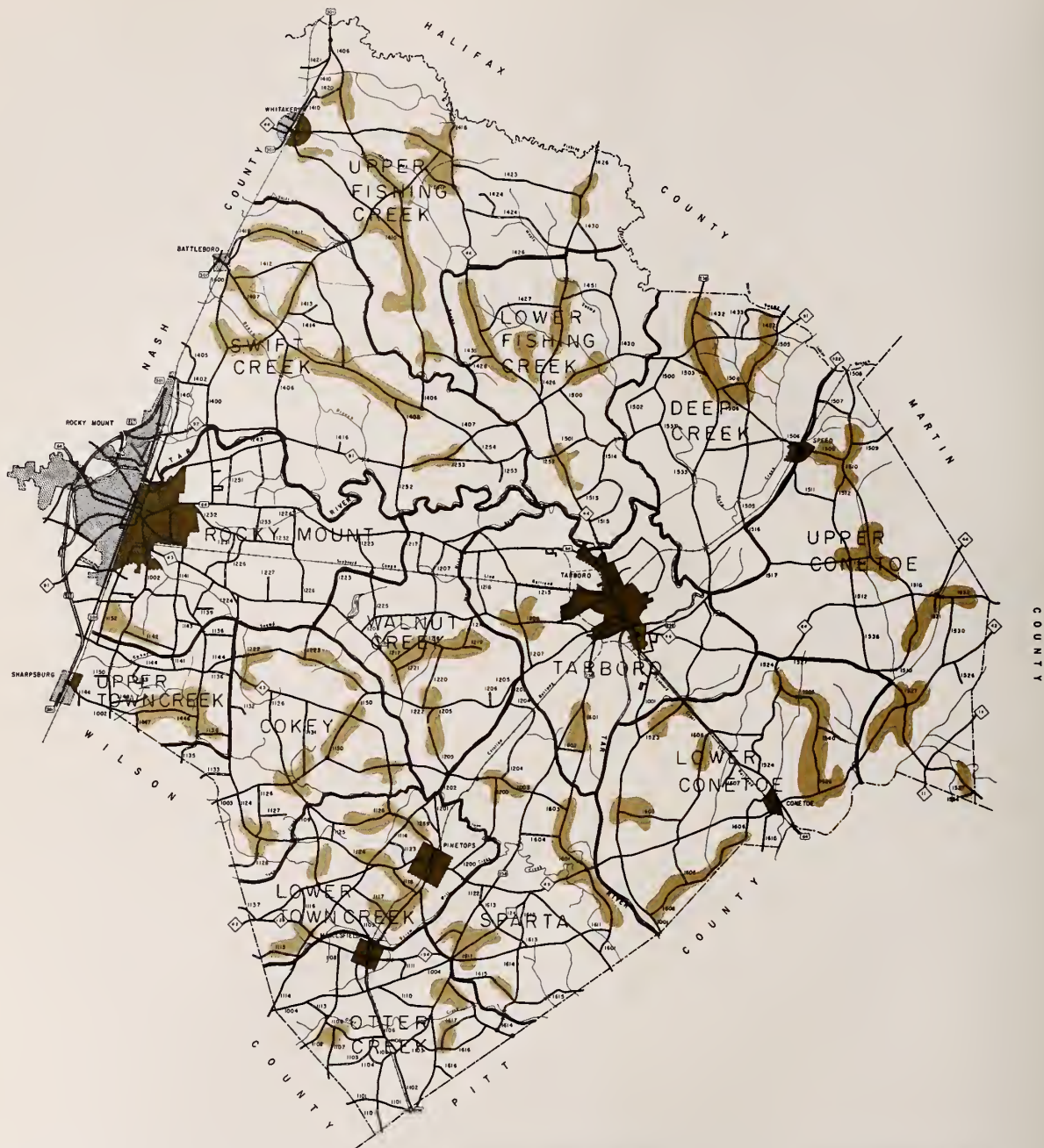
Upper Town Creek had a comparatively good housing inventory with one of the lowest dilapidation numbers in the county. Twenty-two percent of the homes fell in the unsound strata with another eight units being vacant. One hundred of the 222 homes were deteriorating while 33 percent of the total structures were in standard condition. A dilapidated grouping was found in the southeast corner of the township.

Housing Summary

It should be noted that none of the structures located within the urbanized areas of Edgecombe County were included in the total home count. For county report purposes the respective Cities and Towns of Battleboro, Conetoe, Macclesfield, Pinetops, Rocky Mount, Princeville, Sharpsburg, Speed, Tarboro, and Whitakers were not included in the housing count. Vacant dilapidated structures and mobile homes were also not counted for urban areas.

Mobile homes were separated from the total home count and are not included in the material previously given. These units could not be considered permanent or standard residential structures due to the high rate of mobile home dwellers within the in and out-migration category. Two hundred and twelve mobile homes were located during the survey. Only five mobile home parks were found and these were located in the western half of the county.

It is obvious from the data previously presented that the housing conditions within the county leave much to be desired. The vast majority of dilapidated units were sharecropper homes, and most of them were duplexes or triplexes. Efforts should be made to either bring these homes up to standard or replace them. Dilapidated units which have been vacated should be condemned by county health officials before they can be reused. Only a concerted effort on the part of public officials and citizens alike will be able to save many of the deteriorating homes now located within the county.



EDGECOMBE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA



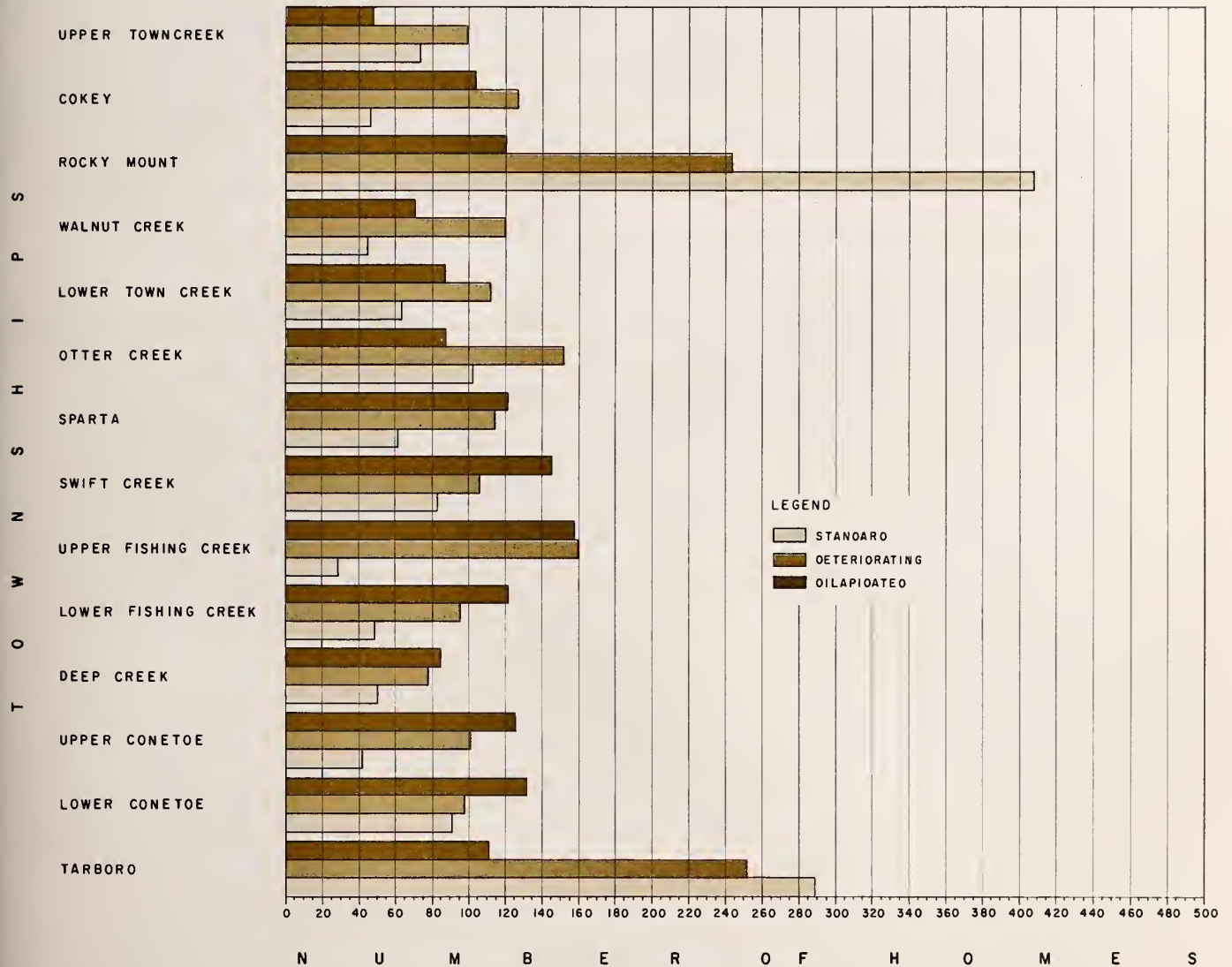
MAP 4

BLIGHTED HOUSING BY TOWNSHIPS

- PRIMARY AREAS OF BLIGHT
- INCORPORATED TOWNS WITHIN
EDGECOMBE COUNTY

HOUSING CONDITIONS BY TOWNSHIPS

CHART 4



COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

A majority of all commercial activity located in Edgecombe County is found in Tarboro and Rocky Mount. Easily accessible highways and railroad facilities make it convenient for patrons to procure goods from both of these cities. Farmers have come to rely on them for farm equipment outlets as well as for standard commercial services.

The Towns of Battleboro, Whitakers, Pinetops, and Macclesfield also have limited commercial centers. However, they are unlike Tarboro and Rocky Mount in that they cater specifically to the farming community. Small town commercial areas will continue to hold their own, but Rocky Mount and Tarboro will also continue to be the primary source for retail and wholesale activity. A new commercial strip is developing just east of Rocky Mount on U.S. Highway 64. This area is composed of a drive-in theatre, a roller skating arena, a used car lot, several service stations, and an auto salvage yard. It is feasible that this area could become an extension of Rocky Mount proper.

There are no commercial centers located in the rural sections of the county. Commercial activity is limited to the approximately ninety grocery stores. These food stores dot the rural countryside wherever two or more roads cross, and their product selection is usually restricted to food staples and gasoline service. Shoppers are driving to the larger cities and it appears that the rural grocery stores will have a difficult time in the future.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Edgecombe County is blessed with a strong and diversified group of industries. Unfortunately, the industrial locations within the county are not balanced countywide, and 80 percent of Edgecombe's industry is located in either Rocky Mount or Tarboro. But as industrial expansion has taken place in these two cities, it has caused corporate leaders to look for new locations within the county's smaller towns. Pinetops has benefitted from this trend, and with a wealth of buildable land and a constantly improving highway system it is possible that other small towns will reap the benefits of expanded industrial development.

The City of Rocky Mount has twenty industries located in its Edgecombe County section. Two meat packing plants, two furniture factories, three printing and publishing companies, two steel firms, and two concrete companies are just a portion of the growing industrial complex which has developed in this area. Accessibility to Interstate Highway 95, U.S. Highways 64, 301 and Highways 97 and 43 give Rocky Mount added industrial appeal. The presence of the main lines of the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad also help to make the city a sound location for industrial expansion. Listed below are the firms and companies found in the Edgecombe portion of Rocky Mount.

Rocky Mount

Barcalo Manufacturing Company - household furniture
Z.B. Bulluck, Inc. - meat packing plant
The Cake Box Company - bread and cake bakery
Carolina Concrete Block Works - concrete blocks
Carolina Ready Mix, Inc. - ready mixed concrete
Colonial Ice Company - ice plant
Dixie Printing and Publishing Company - book publishing
Elliot and Company of N.C. - paper board mills
Hill Proctor Print Shop - commercial printing
Liggett and Meyers Tobacco Company - tobacco stemming and redrying

Peacock Meat Company - Sausage and prepared meats
Peden Steel Company - fabricated structural steel
Phoenix Works, Inc. - synthetic organic fibers
Planters Industries - cottonseed oil mills
Singletary and Company, Inc. - agricultural pesticides
Southern Belle Manufacturing Company - household furniture
Southern Mattress Company - bedding
Trinity Steel Company - boiler fabrication
Walker-Ross Printing - commercial printing
Williams Manufacturing Company - industrial trucks, tractors, etc.

Tarboro is a major industrial city not only for the county but for the region as well. Tarboro has made great industrial strides in recent years and is one of the leading North Carolina producers of fabrics and hosiery. Three fabric producers and three hosiery firms are located within the city. But Tarboro's industrial base is diversified, covering the market from children's toys to the manufacturing of farm implements and machine products. The presence of the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad and U.S. Highways 64 and 258 give Tarboro added potential for industrial expansion. Below are the industries found in this city.

Tarboro

Anaconda Wire and Cable Company - communications cable
Barnhill Logging and Construction Company
Burlington Industries, Inc. - broad woven fabrics
Carolina Enterprises, Inc. - games and toys
Clayton Printing Company - commercial printing
Coca-Cola Bottling Company
Formica Corporation - formica panels
Glenoit Mills, Inc. - knit fabric mills
Harrell Pulpwood
Keel Machine Works
Long Manufacturing Company - farm implements and equipment

Long Trailer Company - transportation equipment
Mayo Knitting Mill, Inc. - women's hosiery
Mayo Knitting Mill, Finishing Plant - women's hosiery
Moorecraft Wood Products - wood products
Phoenix Trimming Company - narrow fabrics
Runnymede Mills, Inc. - hosiery
Seven-Up Bottling Company
Super Feed and Grain Company, Inc. - agricultural feed and grain
Tarboro Concrete and Builders Supply
Tarboro Printing Company

Three other towns in Edgecombe County have industrial firms within their corporate limits. Pinetops is the leader with a clothing company, a casket company, and a mattress corporation. This city shows potential as an expansion point for related companies located in Tarboro and Rocky Mount. The Towns of Battleboro and Whitakers, have lumber related industries. The list below and on the following page indicate the industries located in each of these three cities.

Pinetops

Cotton Belt, Inc. - mattresses and bedsprings
Edgecombe Casket Company
Puritan Sportswear Corporation - men's and boy's clothing

Battleboro

Stimson Lumber Company - sawmill

Whitakers

East Side Lumber Company - hardwood flooring mill

There are five industries located in the predominantly rural section of the county. A lumber mill is located north of Whitakers.

A meat packing plant is located a few miles east of Rocky Mount and Anaconda Wire and Cable Company is located just west of Tarboro. Two industries are located in the immediate area of Leggett. These include an agricultural mill, and a concrete block plant. The smaller towns within Edgecombe County need more industry in order to bolster and supplement their farm trade economies.

Clothing mills, wood and metal manufacturing, and commercial printing are the primary types of industry found in Edgecombe County. The future is bright for increased industrial activity in all three of these areas. If transportation facilities are improved, there will probably be an influx of new related industries locating in Rocky Mount and Tarboro. There are certain advantages for related industries locating together. Edgecombe County's current industrialization should generate more of the same.

Source: North Carolina Directory of Manufacturing Firms, The North Carolina Department of Labor, Division of Statistics, W.L. Strickland, Division Director, 1968.



PUBLIC AND QUASI-PUBLIC AREAS

Public Schools

America has traditionally considered its public education system as one of its proudest possessions. This nation has been able to remain strong, both economically and socially, because it has been able to constantly educate large numbers of its citizens. Modern industry and business have continued to put a high value on educational attainment, and for this reason, it is important that each county and city in North Carolina have good public schools. An aware and responsive citizenry is of great importance to every community. A well balanced public education program will produce the alert young citizens that Edgecombe County must have in the future.

The county is in desperate need of increased educational funds, facilities, and personnel. This critical need is reflected in the educational analysis of county school data. The median number of school years completed for the county is a low 7.8 years as compared to 8.9 years for the State, and 10.6 for the nation. Almost 27 percent of the adult population has never gone beyond the fifth grade level. Thirty-five percent of the children graduating from the eighth grade in 1961-62, failed to finish high school in 1966. In 1965, only 15 percent of the high school graduates entered colleges or universities.

Listed below are the nineteen schools located in the county, with their respective grade levels:

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>GRADE LEVELS</u>
Bulluck	1-8
Coker Wimberly	1-8
Living Hope	1-8
Mayo	1-4
Roberson	1-6
Speed	1-8
Willow Grove	1-8
Bridges	1-7
North Tarboro	1-6
Princeville	1-8
C.B. Martin Jr. High	7-8
Carver	1-12
Conetoe	7-12
North Edgecombe	1-12
Phillips	1-12
South Edgecombe	1-12
Patillo	1-12
Tarboro High School	9-12
West Edgecombe	1-12

A total of 117 buses transport the 7,613 students to and from the schools. Most of the public schools are lacking in facilities or instructors. Nine out of nineteen schools are over their student capacity limits. The same number have inadequate library facilities. Seven schools have inadequate lunch room utilities. Six of them have no multi-use space for combined student and instructor assemblies.

In the area of cultural sciences, these schools leave much to be desired. None of them offer classes in music or art. Only seven of them have physical education programs. Two of the high schools have

no counseling service. A report published by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in 1967 stated the major problem areas.

"The findings of the survey indicate that there are some major problems facing the schools in both the county unit and the Tarboro city unit. The problems are: (1) small elementary schools, (2) small high schools, (3) inadequate financial support for current expenses and capital outlay, and (4) the shifting of pupil population because of the 1964 Civil Rights Act."/1

It is obvious from an analysis of these deficiencies that the county is going to have to improve and expand its existing school facilities. School buildings are important because they serve not only the school children but the community as a whole. Such structures are often used as meeting places and cultural centers. Many school buildings and facilities are used at night for adult education programs. It is very important that the county set aside land for the expansion of present school structures.

Fire Protection

Fire protection is rarely adequate in rural areas but Edgecombe appears to be better served than many other counties. Tarboro has one fire station and Rocky Mount has three. There are six rural fire stations located within the county. These are located in West Edgecombe, Pinetops, Macclesfield, Conetoe, Speed and Princeville. A new rural station is planned for the area around Leggett. Some county land should be set aside for the extension of the present fire fighting facilities.

Police Protection

A good police protection system has been provided for Edgecombe County. The Cities of Tarboro, Rocky Mount, Pinetops and Macclesfield have their own police forces, and part-time constables are

1/ Edgecombe County, Tarboro City School Survey, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Division of School Planning, Dr. J. L. Pierce, Director, 1967.

located in many of the smaller towns. The Edgecombe County Sheriff's Department is located in Tarboro and employs eight full-time deputies to serve the rural areas. Police protection is also afforded by the North Carolina State Highway Patrol located in Rocky Mount and Tarboro.

Medical Facilities

Edgecombe County is in need of more hospital facilities. The county is served by three locations. Edgecombe General Hospital in Tarboro currently provides 75 beds. Another wing which will provide space for an additional 50 beds is now under construction. Memorial Hospital is a private institution located in Rocky Mount and it provides about 60 beds. The Quigless Hospital is also located in Tarboro and provides about 35 beds.

Even with the extension at Edgecombe General Hospital, the county will only have a patient capacity of 220 beds. This means that based on the 1960 Census of Population figures, there will only be approximately one bed per each 250 persons in the county. Additional hospital facilities must be provided in the future, and land should be set aside for this purpose.

Sewer and Water Facilities

Six incorporated towns and cities provide water supplies to their citizens. These six cities are Battleboro, Macclesfield, Pinetops, Rocky Mount, Tarboro, and Whitakers. Battleboro's supply was installed in 1942, and consumption averages about 6,000 gallons a day. Pinetops has had municipally furnished water since 1926, and all of its land area is served with approximately 50,000 gallons per day. Rocky Mount had its first municipal water supply in 1898. Rocky Mount also serves all of its land area and can produce twelve million gallons per day. The citizens of Tarboro consume over 1.3 million gallons of treated water per day. Macclesfield installed its water system in 1937. Macclesfield and Whitakers serve all of their respective land areas and both of them deliver about 50,000 gallons of water per day.

Tarboro, Rocky Mount, Pinetops and Whitakers have secondary disposal systems while Battleboro and Macclesfield have primary systems. All of these towns and cities serve at least ninety percent of their land area, with the exception of Pinetops which serves approximately sixty percent.

Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Activities

Edgecombe County is lacking badly in terms of parks and recreational open space. There are no county parks serving the rural population. The only municipally owned parks in the county are located in Tarboro and Rocky Mount. Tarboro has seven school play areas, four municipally owned recreation areas, and three privately owned parks. Tarboro is in the process of expanding its recreational and cultural program. An 1810 period home has been purchased and will be restored as a cultural center. A new twenty-three acre park is being developed next to C.B. Martin Junior High School. Only two parks areas are located on the Edgecombe side of Rocky Mount. These include Stith Park and a small neighborhood park. The only recreation area outside of these two cities is the Lions Club Park located in Pinetops. With Edgecombe's wealth of tree covered open land, efforts should be made to acquire park land and to expand the county's recreation programs. Recreational areas and park sites will be outlined in the county's forthcoming Land Development Plan. It is hoped that the expansion of existing facilities will be a coordinated effort rather than a piecemeal approach.

Electricity

Most of the cities in Edgecombe County are electrically supplied by their own power plants; usually in conjunction with one of the major power companies such as Carolina Power and Light. Rocky Mount and Tarboro are two such cities. The Town of Speed is supplied by the Virginia Electric and Power Company. Pinetops and Macclesfield are served by the City of Wilson. The Crisp Power Company and the Rural Electric Association serve much of the rural county.

Natural Gas

Natural gas service in the county is rendered by the North Carolina Natural Gas Company. Rocky Mount has its own gas distribution system. Most of the rural areas are served by individual "tank" type units.

Radio and Television Communications

A radio and television communications network is important to an area because it not only keeps the community informed of current events but it may also prove valuable as a public information system during periods of storm disaster or possible enemy attack. Five radio stations and four television stations serve the county. Radio Station WCPS serves the county from Tarboro while Stations WCEC, WFMA, WEED, and WIMT are located in Rocky Mount. Television service is provided to the county by Chanel 9 in Greenville, Channel 5 in Raleigh, Channel 7 in Washington, and Channel 11 from Durham.

Telephone Service

Edgecombe County's telephone service is provided by the Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company. This independent company serves over one-third of the State and has over 6,000 subscribers in the Tarboro area.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation plays a vital role in the economic development of any area. Transportation often mandates where urban functions will develop, because it often forms linkages and route patterns which create commercial nodes or centers of economic activity. Adequate rail facilities, airports, and highways are a prerequisite to economic stability of any urban center. An extensive transportation network is just as important for rural areas as it is to cities and towns. The farmer relies heavily on good highways to move his livestock and produce to market. In turn, the farm market must have good trucking service and rail service to move their items to packing houses and plants. Industrial sites become useless without the provision of good transportation facilities.

Railroads

Probably no other single factor has played a greater role in the growth of American cities than has the railroad. It is largely responsible for metropolitan patterns which exist today. The development of the western United States can be traced to the growth of the railroads. For wherever a railroad stopped to recruit construction crews and take on supplies, a new city or town sprang up. Such metropolitan centers as Kansas City, Oklahoma City and Dallas owe their existence to the development of rail facilities.

Edgecombe County is served by the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad. The Seaboard Line serves all of the county and has complete yard facilities in Tarboro. The Seaboard Coast Line runs along the eastern edge of the county separating Edgecombe from Nash County. It also runs through the middle of the county. This company maintains passenger service between New York, Florida and points on the main line.

Rail transit times average between two and three days to seventeen major American cities; ranging from Chicago in the north to New Orleans in the south. A direct line exists between Norfolk, Virginia and the

Cities of Rocky Mount and Tarboro. Carload shipments are dispatched daily. Some Tarboro industries ship products to virtually every major city in the nation. Rail facilities will continue to play an important role in Edgecombe County's future.

Air Facilities

Air facilities are slightly limited to Edgecombe. This is due to the fact that the only commercial lines located in the area are found in Rocky Mount. Piedmont Airlines provide direct service to all of the North Carolina area and such large cities as Louisville, Memphis, Atlanta, New York and Washington. A private airstrip is maintained in Tarboro. This airstrip is 4,300 feet long and is lighted. A major municipal airport has been planned for the tri-county area of Nash, Wilson and Edgecombe Counties and construction has already begun on the project.

Trucking Activity

North Carolina is noted for its fine system of truck terminals and service points. Trucking service is carried on with both scheduled and irregular service being found in Tarboro. Fourteen major trucking firms are located within a 20 mile radius of Tarboro. Transit time is between two and three days for most major cities. Daily outgoing service is maintained with associated pick-up and delivery service. With a growing index of new industries locating in Edgecombe County, the trucking industry will play a vital role in moving new products to market.

Bus Service

Eleven buses per day pass through Tarboro with connections to virtually all major cities in the United States. Carolina Trailways is the only bus company which serves the Edgecombe area.

Highway System

It is impossible for any area to grow and prosper without the benefit of a good highway system. Edgecombe County is fortunate to have such a fine system of major highways and secondary thoroughfares. Two major highways connect Edgecombe with other major cities and regions. U.S. Highway 64 passes through the center of Edgecombe County and connects the Atlantic Coastal region with the western states. U.S. Highway 258 stretches from Virginia southward. It intersects U.S. Highway 64 at Tarboro, connecting Edgecombe's central city with the northern and southern sections of the county. Tarboro is only twenty miles from Interstate Highway 95. The completion of Interstate Highway 95 could have a dramatic effect on the industrial growth of Edgecombe County.

The county is interlaced with a system of state roads, most of which are paved and in excellent condition. State Highways No. 43, No. 44, No. 122 and No. 124, all pass through Edgecombe giving the area good secondary regional connections to adjoining counties. Listed below is a current outline of Edgecombe's major highways and secondary road mileages. These highways and roads are maintained by the North Carolina State Highway Commission.

Secondary Roads

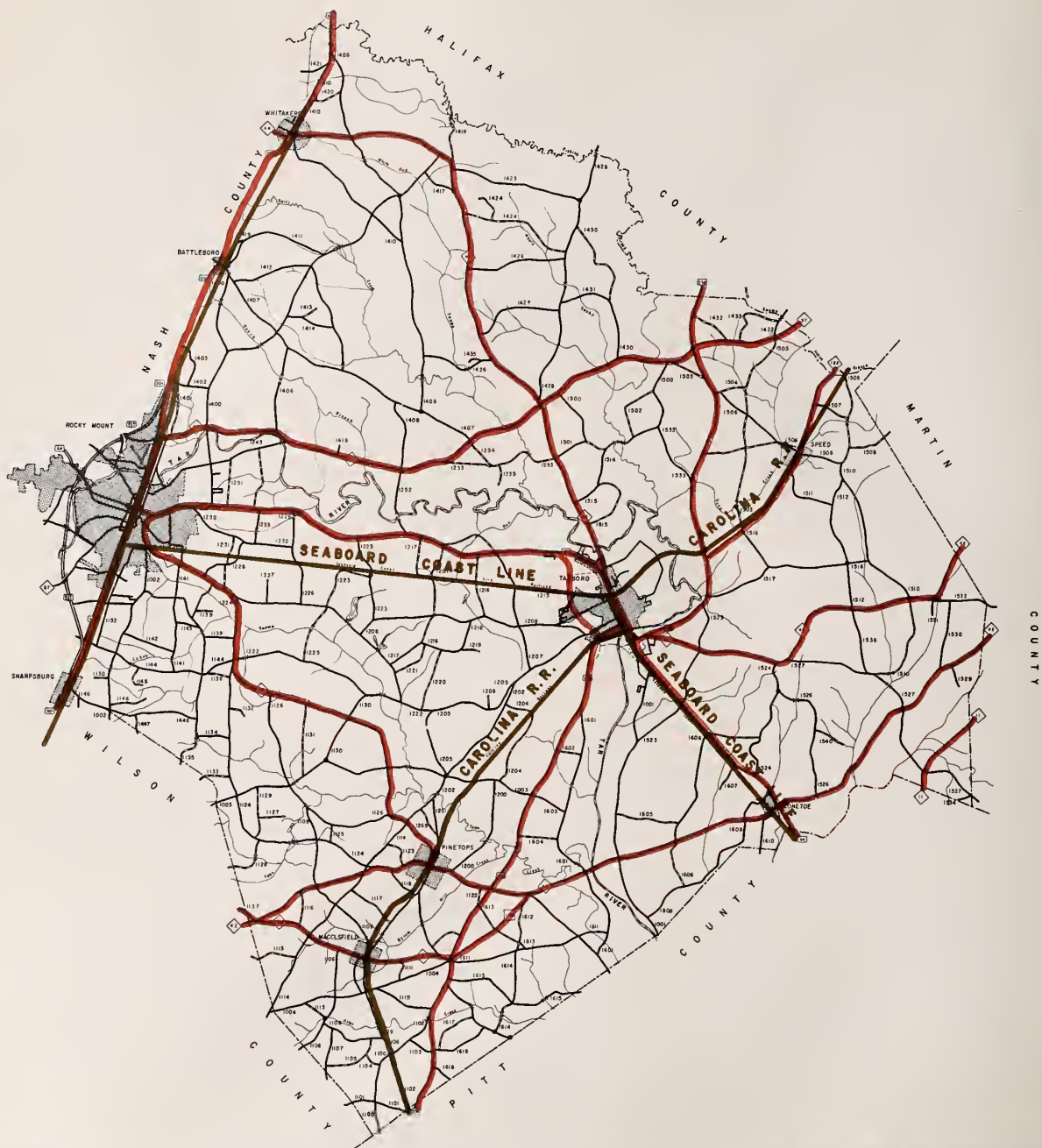
Rural Paved-----	364.90 miles
Rural Unpaved-----	<u>124.90</u> miles
TOTAL-----	489.80 miles

Municipal Streets

Unpaved-----	1.16 miles
Paved-----	<u>21.37</u> miles
TOTAL-----	22.53 miles

Primary (United States, North Carolina, Interstate, etc.)

Rural Paved-----	157.03 miles
Rural Unpaved-----	---
Municipal Paved-----	14.81 miles
Municipal Unpaved-----	<u>---</u>
TOTAL-----	171.84 miles
TOTAL MILES-----	684.17



EDGECOMBE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA



SCALE IN MILES

MAP 5

MAJOR ARTERIALS & HIGHWAYS

POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT



POTENTIAL FOR URBAN AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

Based on an estimate made by the Division of Community Planning, Edgecombe County's population will be around 55,171 by 1975. Residential development will parallel the increase of 945 persons. Based on the 1960 Census of Housing figure of 4.09 persons per dwelling, Edgecombe County will need at least 230 new homes by 1975. Increased housing construction will probably be higher than this figure due to the destruction of older homes which are now in use.

The soils suitability scale has been used as a scale for evaluating new homes, and general construction sites. This method of land use evaluation has necessarily limited the amount of land which could be utilized for residential, commercial and industrial structures. The soils suitability scale is based on the soil limitations for such land uses as sewerage systems, septic tank filter fields, and city streets. If one examines the soil types and their capabilities, it becomes evident that only the western half of Edgecombe County is generally acceptable for new construction.

There are only two soil associations within the county which do not have severe limitations on these three land uses. However, these soil limitations do not pose as great a problem as one might suspect. First, the two soil associations just mentioned compose fifty-two percent of the county's total land area and are located principally in the western half. Second, in recent years most of the residential development within the county has occurred in Tarboro, Rocky Mount, and the western rural areas.

Map #8, on the following page, indicates possible areas of residential development. The reader should keep in mind that they are only general areas suited for use as housing sites. The Tarboro and Rocky Mount areas were shown because they are the fastest growing cities in the county. The areas surrounding and connecting Pinetops and Macclesfield could develop in the future because they have

industrial potential and because they also have good highways connecting them to Tarboro and Rocky Mount as well as to points south and east. The area around Battleboro will also probably have some residential development in the future due to its good highways and close geographical tie with Rocky Mount. In summation, the general western section of the county will probably have some overall limited development.



EDGECOMBE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA



MAP 6

**POTENTIAL AREAS OF
URBAN & RESIDENTIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

COMMERCIAL POTENTIAL

An increase of 945 persons by 1975 will probably cause a slight increase in commercial activity within Edgecombe County. Generally speaking, potentially commercial areas lie in the immediate vicinity of Tarboro and Rocky Mount which are traditionally the centers of commerce for the county. The section of U.S. Highway 64 connecting Tarboro and Rocky Mount will probably be where most of this development takes place. Evident signs of relatively new commercial activity can be seen on the eastern edge of Rocky Mount. Other areas around Tarboro which might develop include the northern section of State Highway 44, and the southern section of U.S. Highway 258.

But commercial activity will not be strictly limited to these two cities. Pinetops and Macclesfield should receive some new commercial development in the future. This activity will probably follow a line along State Secondary Road 1119 and 1201. Just how much commercial activity takes place in these two cities will probably depend on the amount of successful industrial recruiting that they do within the next few years.

As with residential development, commercial activity should be generally confined to the western section of the county. There is only one stretch of land in the eastern section which would not have severe limitations for sewers, and street construction. This area lies between Lawrence and Mayos Crossroads. Rural grocery store activity should drop off as more and more sharecroppers leave their farms and move to the cities.



EDGECOMBE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA



MAP 7

**POTENTIAL AREAS OF
COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL

As with all of the land use activity in Edgecombe County, the majority of new industry coming into the county will probably locate in or near Tarboro and Rocky Mount. However, the county has a wealth of potentially usable industrial land and development need not be confined to these two areas.

On the following page the reader will find a map showing some of the potential industrial sites. These areas were chosen for three reasons. First, they all have immediate or close access to railway lines. Second, the areas are relatively free of residential development. Three, they all border on good paved highways. But these sites are by no means the only ones in the county, for virtually all of the western section of the county has potential for this land use.

As with the other land use categories discussed, the western half of the county is the best potential area for industrial sites. The strip of Norfolk-Goldsboro-Wagram soils found between Lawrence and Mayos Crossroads could also be used for this purpose. However, most of the other soils are not suited because they have high water tables with flooding potential, shrink and swell potential, or do not have a foundation which will support a normal traffic capacity.



EDGECOMBE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA



MAP 8

**POTENTIAL AREAS OF
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT**

AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL

Edgecombe County has traditionally been an agricultural county. This farming tradition will probably continue in the future. In 1966, the North Carolina State University Agricultural Extension Service made some estimates as to the future growth of farming activity in Edgecombe County. This survey indicates that farm sizes will increase and that the total number of farms will decrease.

This pattern is not inconsistent with national farming trends. People who once made adequate livings as agricultural workers are leaving the farms because they believe that they can find better paying jobs within the urban centers. Indeed, there has been great national concern about the rural to urban population shift.

There are only two soil types found in Edgecombe County which are not recommended for agricultural use. These include the Buncombe-Grindle Association and the Bibb-Wehadkee Association. These soil areas are shown on Map #9. They have severe limitations for farming because they are either too wet with occasional flooding or they do not have enough natural plant nutrients to insure high crop yields.

The best farming areas lie in a strip of the western half of the county, from Tarboro south to Macclesfield. But generally, the entire county is rich for farming and will produce high annual yields. Thus, agricultural potential for the county is great, and there can be little doubt that with improved farm machinery, improved seed, and larger farms, that agricultural activity will increase.



EDGECOMBE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA



SCALE IN MILES

MAP 9

**POTENTIAL AREAS OF
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL

Additional parks and recreation space are something which Edgecombe County needs very badly. There are no county recreation areas and only a few municipal parks which serve the Edgecombe area.

One of the big problems for the county is the lack of surface water. A small reservoir, or a developed recreation area along the Tar River might help greatly in inducing vacationers to visit the county. Edgecombe has a wealth of beautiful forested land which could potentially be used for picnic areas and hiking trails.

Map #10 on the following page indicates those areas which might best be used for this purpose. These areas were chosen because they are free from excessive drainage and flooding. Recreation is an important part of everyone's life. With fewer working hours, people will come to rely more and more on park areas as places to spend their free time. Industries and clubs as well as county and local officials should be encouraged to develop new recreation areas within the county.



EDGECOMBE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA



0 1 2 3 4
SCALE IN MILES

MAP 10

**POTENTIAL AREAS OF
RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

